

60,130-1978; XS0009

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application including independent claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 14, and 20. Claims 21-23 have been cancelled.

Claims 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 20, and 21 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 21 has been incorporated into claim 1, from which claim 21 directly depends. Thus, claims 1-5, 8-10, 13, and 15-19 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 6, 7, 11, 14, and 20 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 6, 7, 11-12, 14 and 20 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 13, 16-19, 22, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi (US6260353) in view of Kupe (US 6832473). Claims 5 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Kupe and further in view of Nieuwstadt (US 6834498). Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Kupe and further in view of legal precedent. These rejections are moot in light of the amendments set forth above.

Applicant asserts that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests and indication of such. Applicant believes that fees in the amount of \$600.00 are required for three additional independent claims. The Commissioner is authorized to